



Project O'Bannon Workshop

Combating Terrorism: Policy and Strategy Considerations

Information Paper



Introduction. On 6-7 February 2002, Wargaming Division, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL), in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Net Assessment (OSD/NA), will conduct the second in a series of *Project O'Bannon* events. *Project O'Bannon* is designed to examine the scope and components of an extended global campaign against international terrorism, with particular attention to the potential contributions of military, and especially Marine Corps capabilities. The events of 11 September 2001 have refocused the attention of every American and are the driving force behind *Project O'Bannon*. The terrorist attacks were the opening salvo in the first world war of the 21st Century – a global war against terrorism. This campaign to combat terrorism will require an examination of the structure, dynamics, and vulnerabilities of key infrastructure networks. It will require the US to develop new and integrated approaches to warfare, as well as a new vocabulary. Victory will demand that the US integrate a number of broad and unconventional civilian and military capabilities.

Project O'Bannon is named for Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon, US Marine Corps, who in the early years of the 19th century played a visible role in the defeat of the Barbary Pirates. Moreover, it is shaped by the historical analogue between the global war against piracy in the 18th and 19th centuries and the global war against terrorism. As Paul Hefheinz notes in his October 2 *Wall Street Journal* article, in both cases the protagonist used the "...threat of anti-social violence to intimidate law-abiding people. They attacked the highly visible commercial interests of powerful states... And they used safe havens to plot their attacks and train their forces for battle. There are many contemporary issues, including the effective use of military force that may have precedence in past efforts to combat piracy. "The lesson for modern times is that it took a major, international effort to root out piracy whenever it flourished."

***Project O'Bannon* Concept.** *Project O'Bannon* will be an 8 – 9 month effort. It will consist of a series of integrated war games, seminars, workshops, cultural intelligence seminars, and related activities. These events will constitute a comprehensive effort to develop an integrated approach to a long-term campaign to combat terrorism. The project will not "chase events," but will rather seek to stay "ahead of the bow wave." The bottom line will be the emphasis placed on the role and application of military force, especially Marine Corps capabilities. *Project O'Bannon* will follow the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) approach of integrating doctrinal, as well as emerging operational concepts, organizational innovations, and appropriate advanced technologies to achieve revolutionary changes in the nature of warfare. Finally, a rapid assessment with specific action recommendations will follow each event, with an overall assessment at the conclusion of the program.

Project O'Bannon Objectives

- To identify and understand the strategic and policy framework for a global campaign to combat terrorism as shaped by the Department of State (DOS) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).
- To assess the nature, dynamics, and vulnerabilities of global terrorist networks.
- To explore the role of military force, particularly Marine Corps capabilities, against terrorist networks.
- To define the operational and tactical dimensions of a global campaign to combat terrorism.
- To devise operational and tactical concepts to combat terrorism.
- To identify distinctive capabilities and organizational innovations that may be needed to conduct a global campaign to combat terrorism.

Combating Terrorism: Policy and Strategy Considerations Workshop

The focus of the 6-7 February 2002 workshop will be “Combating Terrorism: Policy and Strategy Considerations” through the examination of the strategic, operational, and tactical views associated with the campaign relative to plans, policies and strategy. The objectives are:

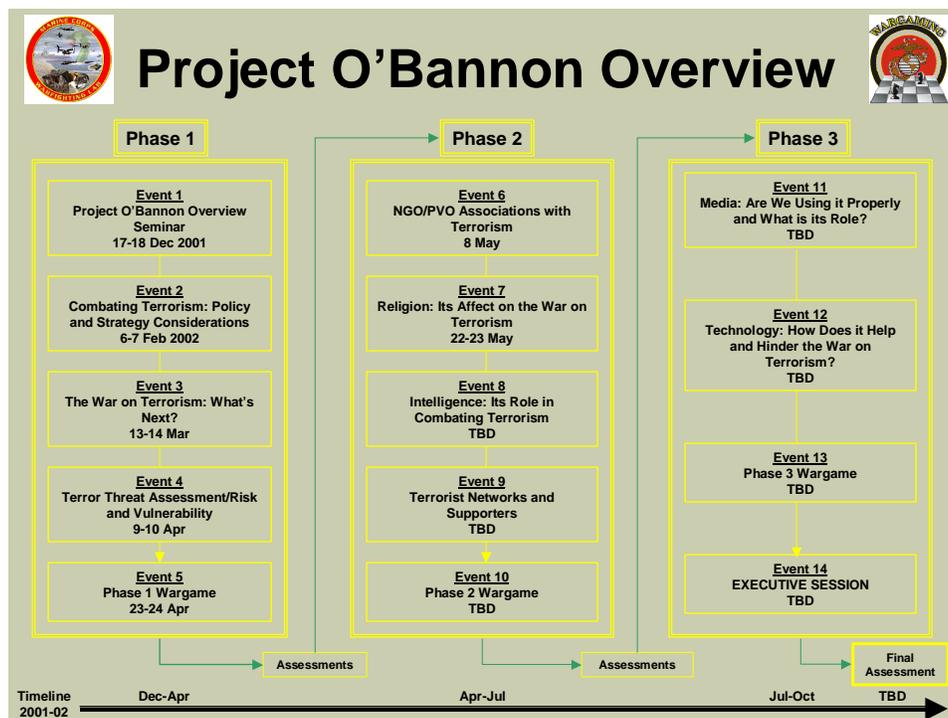
- Examine the definitions of key terms. Specifically:
 - What is terrorism?
 - Who is a terrorist – who is the enemy?
 - What is the difference between counterterrorism, combating terrorism, and antiterrorism?
 - What is the nature of the conflict – are we at war?
 - What is the difference between detainees, criminals, prisoners of war (POW), combatants, and unlawful combatants?
- Examine the adequacy of the plans to unify the effort on the war on terrorism? Specifically address:
 - Who should be in charge of the overall, long-term national effort?
 - Who should be in charge of the offensive, or overseas portion of the war?
 - Who should be in charge of the defensive, or homeland security portion of the war?
 - What should be the military relationship with these commanders?
- Examine the exit strategy associated with a specific action. Specifically address:
 - How do we determine success?
 - What measures of effectiveness (MOE) do we use?
- Explore and assess the Rules of Engagement (ROE) for the war on terrorism.

This workshop will build upon the key topics discussed at the Overview Seminar conducted 17-18 December 2001. The purpose of the Overview Seminar was to provide a general introduction to the global counter terrorism problem, and to broadly consider the key areas of concern that will be considered in more detail in subsequent events. Key topics for the overview seminar are provided below:

Key Topics Discussed

- The history, definition, and nature of terrorism.
- An overview of religion and terrorism.
- The Role of Intelligence in the War on Terrorism.
- Networks.
- Potential organizational innovations.
- Recent Marine Corps efforts in Combating Terrorism, i.e the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism).
- Current and future military roles, mission, and capabilities in combating terrorism.

Project O'Bannon Overview



Administrative Information

- **Location / Directions / Parking.** The workshop will be held in the Wargaming Division spaces at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Quantico, VA. See the attached map.
- **Hotels.** See listings with map. It is recommended that individuals make their own reservations as soon as possible.
- **Security Classification.** Every attempt will be made to keep this workshop at the UNCLASSIFIED level. All printed materials and all material entered on the

computers will be UNCLASSIFIED. The computer network is not cleared for classified information.

- **TAD Funding.** All participants are to provide their own funding for this seminar.
- **Conference Fee.** \$20.00.
- **Attire.** Uniform of the Day for military and business casual attire for civilians.
- **Communications Support / Messages.** 703-784-3276.
- **Workshop Schedule.** The workshop will run from 1330 to 1630 on the 6th of February and from 0800 to 1630 on the 7th of February. A detailed schedule will be forwarded as soon as it is finalized.

- **Contact Information**

Wargaming Division, MCWL, Quantico

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For additional information please refer to the Small Wars Center of Excellence web site:

www.smallwars.quantico.usmc.mil

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday – 6 February 2002

1300 – 1330	Arrival – Check-in
1330 – 1400	Welcome Aboard – Admin Remarks – Overview of Project O’Bannon – Mr. Frank Jordan
1400 – 1430	Workshop Schedule – Objectives – Mr. Mike Schaefer
1430 – 1500	Discussion of Definitions
1500 – 1515	Break
1515 – 1615	Discussion of Definitions (continued)
1615 – 1630	Wrap-up

Thursday - 7 February 2002

0800 – 0830	Arrival – Coffee and Donuts
0830 – 0840	Administrative Remarks – Mr. Mike Schaefer
0840 – 0940	Current National Combating Terrorism Policy; Speaker – Sam Brinkley – DOS
0940 – 1000	Break
1000 – 1100	Combating Terrorism: Are There Any Rules? Speaker – Mr. Mitch Mitchell – NDU
1100 – 1200	The Unity of Effort for Conducting the War on Terrorism Speaker – Mr. James Locher – Former ASD/SOLIC (tentative)
1200 – 1300	Lunch
1300 – 1600	Working Group Sessions
1600 – 1630	Wrap-up Session